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Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20545

OCT 13 1987

Dr. Keith Schiager, Director
Radiological Health
University of Utah
100 O.S.H. Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Dr. Schiager:

As you may know, the Department of Energy (DOE) is evaluating the radiological condition of sites that were utilized under the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the early years of nuclear development to determine whether they need remedial action and whether the Department has authority to perform such action. Two sites under your jurisdiction were investigated under this program. Mr. W. A. McKinney, University of Utah, was notified in 1979 by letter from Dr. W. E. Mott, DOE, that the Bureau of Mines portion of the school grounds was being considered as one such site, and Mr. Downard of your office was notified by letter dated March 13, 1979 (Mott to Downard) that certain portions of the University of Utah were being considered.

In the first instance, the Bureau of Mines conducted research studies on small amounts of uranium in order to develop a process for the recovery of uranium from various types of ore. The facility was turned over to your University in the mid-1980's, after the facility was scheduled for cleanup by the Bureau. In regard to the second area, a survey conducted in 1977 found no detectable activity above background, except in small room used to store radioactive material. This room was used for radiation therapy at the time of the survey, and it contained several radiation-producing devices. The survey team recommended no further surveys be performed.

This letter, along with the enclosed summary reports and supporting information, represents the results of the Department's review to determine if the sites contain residual radioactive contamination traceable to the actions conducted on behalf of the AEC. The report is provided to you as the representative of the sites owner, for your information. On the basis of the review, the Department has determined that no potential exists for significant amounts of residual radioactive material derived from activities conducted for the AEC to remain at these sites. As a result, the sites were eliminated from further consideration under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). This package was prepared as the final DOE action on both of these sites under FUSRAP.

Documentation supporting the Department's decision will be available for public review at the Department's Public Reading Room located in Room

1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions regarding this decision or the availability of the material at the reading room, please contact Andrew Wallo of my staff at 301-353-5439.

NE-23
Wallo
10/9/87
NE-23
Fiore
10/13/87

Sincerely,

/S/

James J. Fiore, Director
Division of Facility and Site
Decommissioning Projects
Office of Nuclear Energy

Enclosures

cc:
Mr. Larry F. Anderson, Director
Bureau of Radiation Control
Department of Health
P.O. Box 1690
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-0690

bcc:
W. Cottrell, ORNL, w/o enclosures
Aerospace, w/enclosures

NE-20 RF
NE-23 RF
Wallo RF
NEG (4)

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UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Salt Lake City, Utah

Site Function

Research for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was conducted at the University of Utah's Medical Research Center and School of Mines. The work at the Medical Research Center consisted of animal inhalation studies involving uranium dust and was conducted under AEC contract during the early 1950s.

Site Description

The animal inhalation studies were conducted in a small basement area of the hospital. The attached figure shows the location of the University Medical Research Center and campus in Salt Lake City.

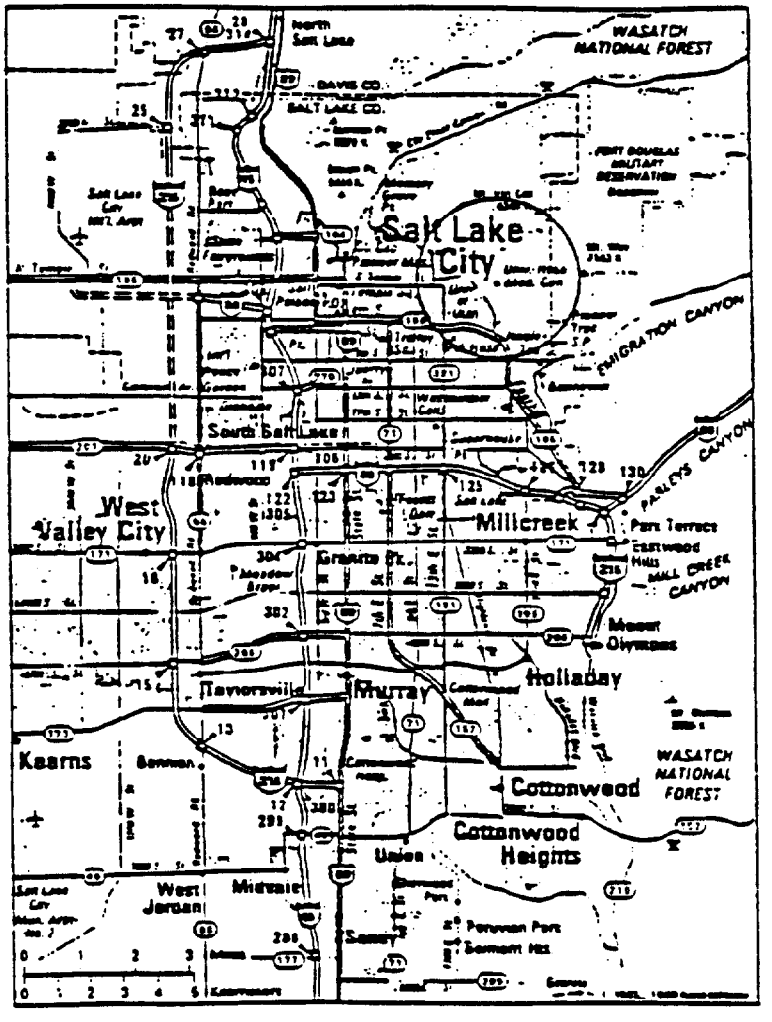
Owner History

The facilities are owned and occupied by the University of Utah.

Radiological History and Status

Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) Chicago Operations Office and Argonne National Laboratory visited the site on November 29, 1977, and surveyed the small basement area in the Medical Research Center. They found no detectable activity above background, except in a small room used to store radioactive material. This area was used for radiation therapy at the time of the survey, and contained several radiation-producing devices.

Based on a review of historical records and radiological survey results, DOE determined that remedial action was not warranted at the Salt Lake City site and eliminated it from consideration for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. The final elimination report was completed in fiscal year 1987.



University of Utah Campus
and Medical Research Center

Department of Energy
Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

DEC 2 8 1977

James L. Liverman, Acting Assistant
Secretary for Environment, HQ

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

On November 29, 1977, Edward J. Jascewsky, Department of Energy (DOE), and Walter H. Smith, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), visited the University of Utah's Medical Research Center and the School of Mines. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the past operations at these facilities that involved work under an Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) contract during the early 1950's. Personnel visited at the University of Utah were Dr. Dennis Leavitt, Medical Physicist, and Richard Downard, Radiological Health Department.

The work at the Medical Research Center involved animal inhalation studies involving uranium dust. The work involved use of a small basement area of the hospital. This area was completely surveyed by Messrs. Jascewsky and Smith using an Eberline gas proportional counter (PAC-4G-3) and an Eberline end window geiger-mueller detector (Model E-530). The results of the survey indicated no detectable activity above background except in the small room (4 feet by 4 feet), which is used to store their radioactive material. A radium incident had occurred in this area. The levels found on the floor in this area were above background with a maximum of several hundred counts per minute above background. The present use of this basement area is for radiation therapy and contains several radiation producing devices. No AEC contract number for the inhalation studies work could be found.

The other area reviewed involved work under AEC Contract AT(49-1)-633. The work involved studies on processing of uranium ores. Three laboratory rooms (109, 201, and 221) in the old Mines Building were the areas where the work was performed. A survey of Rooms 201 and 221 was performed by the resurvey team, and no activity above background was detected. Room 109 was not accessible for surveys during the visit. Mr. Downard, the Radiation Safety Officer, agreed to survey this area within the next few days using the same type of equipment that would be used by the survey team. Results of his survey is attached to this memo.

Mr. Downard informed us that the particular area was used for thorium research after the uranium activity was completed. Upon completion of the thorium work, he performed a complete radiological survey and cleanup of the area. This final survey will be provided to the Chicago Operations Office if a copy can be found.

Based upon the information from Mr. Downard and the surveys performed by Messrs. Jascewsky and Smith, I recommend that no further radiological surveys be performed by the DOE/ANL resurvey team.

Robert H. Bauer
Manager

SD:EJJ

Enclosure:
University of Utah Survey

cc: R. Wynveen, ANL, w/encl.
W. Smith, ANL, w/encl.
W. E. Mott, ECT, HQ, w/encl.
D. Leavitt, University of Utah, w/encl.
R. Downard, University of Utah, w/encl.
R. Floyd, University of Utah, w/encl.